

Legal Notice

Comprehensive Five-Year Bond Review for Stimson Lumber Company, Keeler and Six-Mine Quarries (Hard Rock Mining Operating Permit No. 00082)

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is conducting a comprehensive bond review for Operating Permit No. 00082 issued to Stimson Lumber Company (Stimpson). Stimson's two quarries and associated disturbances are located south of Troy near the junction of Iron Creek Road with Copper Mountain Road (T30N R33W Section 7), and east of Libby along Fisher River Road (T29N R29W Section 9).

DEQ has determined that the current bonding level does not represent the present costs of compliance with the Metal Mine Reclamation Act, administrative rules adopted thereunder, and the operating permit. DEQ is proposing a bond increase of \$31,950 (from \$9,055 to \$41,005). The bond increase is largely due to changes in fuel prices, equipment rates, and updated indirect costs associated with reclamation projects.

The procedure for adjusting bonds as a result of a comprehensive bond review is set forth in Section 82-4-338(3), MCA. The company and the public will have until July 9, 2023, to comment on the proposed bond increase. DEQ will issue a final bond determination after the comment period has expired. The company, or any person with an interest that may be adversely affected by DEQ's final bond determination, may obtain a contested case hearing before the Board of Environmental Review. A written request for a hearing must be filed with DEQ within 30 days of the issuance of the final bond determination, stating the reason for the request.

Requests for copies of the bond calculation associated with the comprehensive bond review, and any related questions should be directed to Eric Dahlgren, Hard Rock Mining Section Supervisor, Mining Bureau, Department of Environmental Quality, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901, by telephone at (406) 444-5245 or by e-mail at DEQHardRock@mt.gov.